Unit Overview – Air Masses and Fronts

Essential Questions

- What type of weather can you expect from different types of air pressure?
- How do global wind patterns affect the movement of air masses?

❑ I totally get it
☒ I kinda get it
❑ I don't get it

What came first:

- (5th Grade) Explain how global patterns such as the jet stream and water currents influence local weather in measurable terms such as temperature, wind direction and speed, and precipitation.

What comes next:

- (High School: Earth and Environmental Science) Explain the formation of typical air masses and the weather systems that result from air mass interactions.

Enduring understanding	Important to know and do	Worth being familiar with
❑ The four types of air masses have unique characteristics (tropical, continental, maritime, and polar). ❑ The four types of frontal boundaries have unique characteristics (warm, cold, stationary, and occluded). ❑ Changes in air pressure causes changes in air density.	❑ Track the movement of air masses across the continent for five consecutive days. ❑ Predict the type of weather changes brought on by changes in air mass, pressure, and frontal boundaries. ❑ Interpret a weather map that uses symbols for air masses, pressure systems, and frontal boundaries.	❑ Seasonal changes in the Jet stream affect weather patterns

Vocabulary to master

❑ Air mass	❑ Front	❑ Pressure system	❑ Weather pattern
❑ Cold front	❑ Warm front	❑ Occluded front	❑ Stationary front
❑ High pressure	❑ Low pressure	❑ Wind	❑ Coriolis effect
❑ Frontal boundary	❑ Density	❑ Polar air mass	❑ Maritime air mass
❑ Continental air mass	❑ Tropical air mass	❑ Jet stream	❑
❑	❑	❑	❑